

Country Diversity Climate Discussion

Italy



COUNTRY CLIMATE
DISCUSSIONS
2022-23

#DiversityAbroad

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Diversity Abroad's Inclusive Advising for Education Abroad
Professionals eLearning Course



Session Overview



- Introduction of Guest Speakers
- Overview of Italy
- Panel Discussion
- Q&A
- Resource Sharing
- Diversity Abroad Updates
- Poll - future country climate webinars

Presenters



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Disclaimers

Today's conversation will not be all encompassing.

Our language and our perspectives will be biased.

We hope to crowdsource the knowledge of those connected to the conversation!

Location & Regional Considerations

International geographic location

- Proximity to North Africa

Regional differences

- Metropolitan and rural (expectations, contradictions, and opportunities)
- North and south
- Exposure to diverse populations/diversity

Physical accessibility and infrastructure

Historical Context to Frame Discussion

- Mid-19th century unification
 - Familiar north/south
- History of colonialism, migration, and immigration
 - Colonial rule in Eritrea, Somalia, and Libya
 - Occupation of Ethiopia
 - Importance of geographic location
- Relatively recent national discussions about race and racism

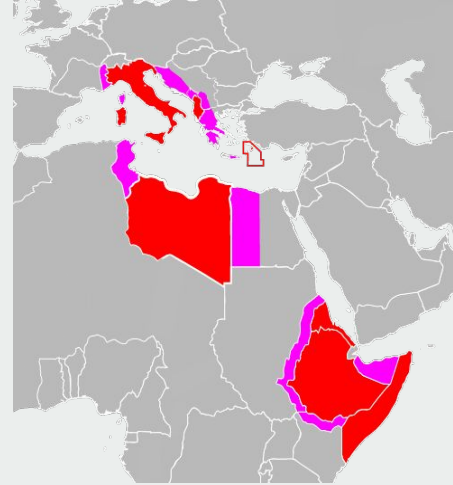


Photo credit: [Wikipedia Military History and Italy](#)

Throughlines of Race

- The word “race” is not used in Italy due to the Holocaust/WWII/fascism
 - Talking about race associated w/ fascism
 - This leads to “color-blindness” and denial of racism amongst Italians
- Italy does not include a race category in its census. This means that there is little to no data on the actual demographics of Italians.
- It is assumed that nationality = race
 - Consequently, it is assumed that someone of color is not Italian or is a tourist if dressed well.



Througlines of Citizenship

- Foreign-born populations tend to be differentiated between “migrants/refugees” and “expats”
 - Other terms include “extra-communitari” and “clandestino”
- Recent surveys indicate high levels of ambivalence towards migration with both favorable and unfavorable attitudes reported
- There are some negative associations of immigrants with low-wage work, organized crime, delinquency, and prostitution
- This affects citizenship access for people who are born and/or raised in Italy



Photo credit: [National Italian American Foundation](#)

Throughlines of Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation

Gender roles

- Masculinity
- Matriarchy

Gender identities

- Fluidity, binarism
- Effects of Romance Language (m/f)

Sexual Orientation

- Even within the LGBTQIA+ community, gender fluidity is not embraced and is sometimes frowned upon. Bisexuality or pansexuality is oftentimes seen as negative.



Throughlines of Religion

- Italy is predominantly Catholic, but despite many people being non-practicing, it is ingrained into the culture
- Religious perceptions do not always match the statistics
 - Christian 80.8% (overwhelmingly Roman Catholic with very small groups of Jehovah's Witnesses and Protestants), Muslim 4.9%, unaffiliated 13.4%, other 0.9% (2020 est.). Very small Jewish population, but areas formerly known as the Jewish Ghetto still exist in various cities.
- The role of the Vatican in Italian politics



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Photo Credit: [Identity Hunters](#)

Discussion Questions

- What do you think students traveling to Italy from other countries should know about identity before they go?
- What information would you recommend that advisors share with students interested in studying abroad in Italy?

Resources

General

- [Diversity Abroad Country Guide: Italy](#)
- [Temple Rome Diversity and Inclusion Resources](#)

Disabilities

- [Societal Attitudes Toward Persons with Disabilities in the Italian Province of Macerata](#)
- [UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights](#)

Race/Ethnicity

- [Contesting Race and Citizenship: Youth Politics in the Black Mediterranean](#), Camilla Hawthorne
- [Tunisian Migrants and Their Experience of Racism in Modena](#)
- [Black Italia](#)
- [Come immaginare un museo decoloniale?](#)
- ["They are Black. They are Italians. And they are changing their country."](#)
- [Being Black in Italy, an Interview: Italics Magazine](#)
- [Challenging the white gaze and eurocentric perspective](#)
- [#BlackCoffee](#) Podcast (Italian)

Gender

- [Gender Roles, Stereotypes, and Attitudes of Sexual Violence | Istituto Nazionale di Statistica](#)
- [Cultural Atlas | Religion in Italy](#)

Sexual Orientation

- [UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights](#)
- [Catching up! The sexual behaviour and opinions of Italian students \(2000–2017\)](#)
- [A Spotlight on LGBT People: How does Italy compare? | OECD](#)
- [Very real fears for LGBTQ+ Italians after far-right wing](#)

Migration

- [Migration in Italy](#) | Institute of Italian Labor Economics
- [How Immigration to Italy has Changed Over the Last 50 Years | Open Migration](#)

What's Next?

- **Full Recording of Community Discussion**
 - Added to Education Abroad Resource Center for Members
- **Presentation & Resource Sheet**
 - Sent to All Participants
- **Upcoming Community Discussions**
 - [Orienting European On-site Staff to the US DEI Climate](#)
 - [Programs in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean](#)

Contact Us



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